United States Bankruptcy Court

Eastern District of Louisiana 501 Magazine Street, 6th Floor New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Warren A. Cuntz, Jr. Clerk of Court

Telephone: 504-589-7878 Facsimile: 504-589-2076

To: All Members of the Bankruptcy Bar

From: Warren A. Cuntz, Jr.

Re: Electronic Case Filing

I am pleased to report that our Court will become virtually paperless during the first few months of 2002. By that I mean that all pleadings must be filed using electronic case filing. The benefits of ECF for attorneys are many, including the following:

- No couriers, no post offices
- Immediate internet access from any location
- Easy notice to other counsel
- Immediate and up-to-the-minute reports, docket sheets and data
- 24 hour/7 day access and filing
- Electronic delivery of documents to, from and within the court
- Electronic retrieval of all case documents by all users

Contrary to what you may have heard, the system is very efficient and easy to use. Beginning October 15, 2001, we will begin training attorneys and their staff. We will have in-house training sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays (one in the morning and one in the afternoon). We will also visit law offices to train attorneys and their staff on how to use the system. These site training visits will be limited to the firms and attorneys who practice often in our Court.

Mandatory use of ECF for all Chapter 12's and Chapter 13's will begin on January 14, 2002. Mandatory use of ECF for all Chapter 7's, Chapter 11's and Adversary Proceedings will begin on March 18, 2002.

This is a very exciting time for the Bankruptcy Court. We will do everything in our power to make the transition as easy as possible for you and your staff.

Please go to our Court's website (<u>www.laeb.uscourts.gov</u>) and get familiar with the system. Our website contains an ECF training database that you should find most useful.